

Minutes

Radio Association of Erie
General Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by KE3V.

Board Members Present: KE3V, N3NKV, WB3DOM, KB3BAM

Not Present: N3ZNP, KD3D, K3LD, KB3JSN, KB3CAT

Visitors: None

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting as printed in the QUARAE. Motion made by N3LBI. Seconded by N3DBC. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: KE3V provided the treasurer's report that was presented at the board of director's meeting.

Board of Director's Report: WB3DOM provided the report from the board of director's meeting. Topics discussed included: repeater move, 440 repeater, capital fund trustees, newsletter updates, donation letters for lumber for stairs, gravel for driveway, holiday Party, equipment tags for property and supplies, and federal surplus program

Upgrades: None

Silent Keys: None

Membership: 101 + 2 New Members

Committee Reports:

Repeater: N3APP reported that he is going to start the planning for the repacking of 61 today by taking the cabinet measurements and also working on

restoring the Micor receiver. At St Vincent's, we will not have, we will not have autopatch nor will we be using our batteries there. Date of the move is not set.

Skywarn: Nothing

Website: N3NKV reported that there are some errors in the sizing of the template and they will be fixed.

Public Service: AD4UL reported that he has received various requests that the club provide communications for the following events:

May 21st MS Walk; June 9th: Hamot Sports Medicine Triathlon in Edinboro; June 9th and 10th MS Bike Ride – Meadville; September- Presque Isle Triathlon

On June 9th, the Hamot Sports Medicine Triathlon gets priority. AD4UL made a motion that we participate in these events. Seconded by N3DBC. Motion Carried.

Field Day: KE3V asked the membership what they thought about moving Field day closer to town to get more public exposure. After discussion, it was decided to have it at the clubhouse. AD4UL will be the chairman.

Education: none

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Minutes Continued

New Business:

Gravel for Driveway: N3NKV mentioned that McKean Township recently delivered gravel to the clubhouse. Due to the excessive amount of dirt in it, it has made the clubhouse driveway very muddy when wet. N3NKV made a motion that the club purchase 6 yards of oversize gravel (9 tons) from Afton Landscape supply at a price of \$194.00 + 11.64 tax= \$205.64. There was no second to the motion. KE3V said that we should table the motion to see what other gravel N3ZNP can get from McKean Township.

N3NKV mentioned that Ripley Hamfest is tomorrow.

50/50 Winner: N3LBI: \$13.50

Motion to Adjourn made by WB3DOM. Seconded by K3PLV.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis
Radio Association of Erie Secretary

From the Skywarn Coordinator

Hi Folks:

Wow! What a ride it's been... Effective the last day of June 2007, I will be stepping down from the positions of: Asst. Emergency Coordinator for Erie County ARES and Emergency Coordinator for Erie County Skywarn.

I am honored to have served in these positions over the past few years. I want to especially thank Dave Wellman WX3E, Bill Marshall KB3JSN, and Alan Jordano, KB3DUO for your support and camaraderie. What a great Leadership Team, You guys are second to none in my book.



Thanks for the ride and allowing me to serve.

Steve La John, N3SRD

Congratulations go out to newlyweds
Matt Fuller KB3CAT and his new XYL
Melissa!
Will Melissa be getting her
ham license soon?



RST Defined... Are you giving an accurate Report??

The RST system is a means of quickly telling the other station a wealth of information with just 3 numbers. When you say to someone 'RST 469', they immediately know you are having a little trouble copying them (4), they know you are hearing them at a good level (6), and their signals are in good shape with no hum or buzz (9). These 3 numbers are independent of one another, and simply because a station is very weak, you can still be copying perfectly, and his tone can still be perfect. This would be an RST of 529. I have heard some stations improperly giving out RST's of 555 or 577 when the other station had a perfect tone. They somehow think the T should track with the S, and if the sig is weak, the T number should be lower. This is completely wrong. Nowadays, virtually every signal you hear is a T9. The meanings of T1-T8 are throwbacks to the early days of radio when you really could hear a T1 signal. Oh, occasionally you will hear a station with some hum, buzz, or ripple, and should give them a T7 or T8.

In addition to the three numbers, once in a while a letter is added to the end of the 3 numbers. These letters are: X meaning the signal is perfectly steady like a crystal controlled signal; C meaning the signal sounds chirpy as the frequency varies slightly with keying; and K meaning the signal has clicks. X is a throwback to the early days of radio when such steady signals were rare. Today most all signals could be given an X and it is hardly ever used. It is helpful if you hear a chirpy or clicky signal to use the C or K, e.g. 579C or 579K. The following table lists the values and definitions of the R, S, and T.

R	Readability
1	Unreadable
2	Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
3	Readable with considerable difficulty
4	Readable with practically no difficulty
5	Perfectly readable
S	Signal Strength
1	Faint signals, barely perceptible
2	Very weak signals
3	Weak signals
4	Fair signals
5	Fairly good signals
6	Good signals
7	Moderately strong signals
8	Strong signals
9	Extremely strong signals
T	Tone
1	Sixty cycles or less, very rough and broad
2	Very rough ac, very harsh and broad
3	Rough ac tone, rectified but not filtered
4	Rough note, some trace of filtering
5	Filtered rectified ac, but strongly ripple-modulated
6	Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
7	Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
8	Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
9	Perfect tone, no trace of ripple, or modulation of any

New ARRL Member Benefit

The ARRL inaugurated a partnership with MetLife at Dayton Hamvention to provide new membership benefits. An announcement to ARRL members went out last week outlining the program, which offers group automobile and home insurance as well as banking products. This program also makes available insurance for renters, boats, condos, recreational vehicles (RVs) and fire. "I am very excited to see this program launched after nearly a year of planning and development," ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, said. At Hamvention, MetLife representatives set up at ARRL EXPO where they held a giveaway for a giant Snoopy -- MetLife's marketing mascot -- and handed out nearly 8000 Snoopy toys. All ARRL members are eligible for this new program, which offers a wide range of policies. For a free, no-obligation quote, just call toll-free 800-GET-MET8 (438-6388). When calling, have your ARRL membership number ready, and explain that you're inquiring as a group member.

Source: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 21 May 25, 2007

Radio Law: NJ Latest State to Propose Banning Mobile Telecomms

Meantime, back in the United States, New Jersey is the latest state to propose banning the use of all forms of communications gear while driving a car. Amateur Radio Newsline's Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, reports on the latest radio law coming out of Trenton: The new measure known as New Jersey Assembly bill No. 4146 would expand an existing cell phone prohibition to include all electronic communication devices including non verbal systems such as text messaging and manually activated vehicle location systems. Under current law, it is unlawful to use a wireless telephone while driving, unless it is equipped with a hands-free device. The current law defines "use" of a wireless telephone as including, but not being limited to, talking or listening to another person on the telephone. The new bill would expand that definition to include, but not be limited to, text messaging or sending an electronic message via the wireless telephone or any electronic communication device such as a Mobile Data Terminal. Also, as currently proposed, there is no exemption for any public safety users such as police or fire departments.

The current law prohibiting cell phone use while driving specifies that a violation of its provisions should only be enforced as a secondary offense. This bill would not change that provision, but specifies that when the phone or electronic communication device is used to text message or send an electronic message, the violation may be enforced as a primary action.

What this might mean for that states ham radio operators is unclear. But with no exemption for emergency service radio users included, radio amateurs might be hard put to get one written in. We will keep watching this one and report on it in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports.

- Amateur Radio Newsline

Hamvention 2007

HAMVENTION 2007: MAYOR SAYS HE WILL SOLVE THE PARKING PROBLEM

The mayor of Trotwood, Ohio, the suburb where the Dayton Hamvention is held, says that he will find a fix for the parking problem that has plagued the spring gathering the past several years. Speaking at the Awards Banquet, Mayor Donald K. McLaurin told those assembled that he recognizes that a fix needs to be found: Mayor McLaurin: "I've mentioned a couple of times about the parking issue coming up next year. My pledge to you is that we will solve that problem. Parking will not be the issue." Mayor McLaurin's remarks stem from next years anticipated loss of parking at the near-by Salem Mall which is currently undergoing several years of extensive reconstruction. That work will likely make the area of the mall normally used by the Hamvention attendees un-available. But Mayor McLaurin says not to worry because he will find a new place for Hamvention attendees to park. — Amateur Radio Newsline



Great Deals can always be found at
Hamvention like an armful of
miscellaneous cables for \$3.00!!

Directions to Club House from Millcreek Mall

- 1) Take PA 99 South to Pennock's Cub Cadet Tractor Sales
- 2) Turn Right onto Bargain Rd
- 3) Go Over I-79 Bridge.
- 4) Turn Right on to Wagner RD
- 5) Take Wagner Road until the end.

Please drive slow as this is a residential area.

- 6) The club house is located on the left hand side of the road.



The QUARAE



Field Day 2007 ...Bitten by the Bug

Get out of the Ham Shack and Enjoy the Sights and Sounds of working at Field Day at the RAE Clubhouse.

Whether you are No-Code Technician or an Extra, don't feel intimidated about running the radios at the clubhouse. There will be someone there to help you out.

We'll have at least 2-3 HF stations and a VHF/UHF Station.

New this year for field day at all of the indoor computer workstations are 17/19 inch monitors to help the night owls out!

Setup will take place on Friday June 23rd and Saturday June 24. If you would like to help, please contact Field Day Chair Doug AD4UL at 453-2915, on the repeater or via Email at ad4ul@att.net or dsweet-ad4ul@att.net.

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Club Repeaters

• **Erie**
146.610-
PL 186.2
• **Waterford**
146.820-
PL 186.2

Club Website:
www.raerie.org

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Just a Reminder ...RAE Meeting this Thursday
The Radio Association of Erie meeting will be held on
Thursday June 7th at 7 PM at the RAE Clubhouse at
3940 WAGNER RD in McKean.
Directions on PG 7